

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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HORNE RELEASES ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP) FOR ARIZONA SCHOOLS – CRITICIZES ILLOGICAL FEDERAL CHANGES

PHOENIX (Thursday, August 31, 2006) -- Arizona School Chief Tom Horne today released Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results for district schools and charters. AYP is a No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirement that measures data from the AIMS test and requires that 95 percent of the students in a school take the test.

Horne stated: “Arizona’s overall proficiency rate increased from 55 percent in 2002 to 70 percent in 2006. This year, there was a further one percent increase in proficiency. Despite that, there is an increase in the number of schools failing to make AYP due to three federal rule changes: 1) reneging on the agreement that schools would have three years to English language learners; 2) counting special education students with non-standard accommodations as not taking the test (95 percent of students in every demographic subgroup in every category at every grade level must take the test) and 3) adding grades 4, 6, and 7 to test results, which had the effect of increasing the ways in which a school could fail from 107 to 217.”

Last year, out of approximately 1,900 schools, 237 failed to make AYP. This year, each of the above categories had the effect of increasing the number of schools not making AYP slightly in excess of 100 additional schools for each category.

A copy of each schools AYP determination is attached.

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